

BOOTLE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT

FOR THE YEAR 1914,

— OF THE —

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

AND

SANITARY INSPECTOR.

To the Bootle Rural District Council.

Annual Report for 1914.

RAVENGLASS,

February 9th, 1915.

GENTLEMEN,

I beg to place before you my Annual Report for 1914.

The Death-rate is the lowest ever recorded in the district. The Infantile Mortality rate is lower than last year and for the average of the last ten years, and as three out of the five deaths occurred in children born prematurely who only lived a few hours, may be regarded as satisfactory.

The Birth-rate is lower than last year, and for the average of the last ten years this is, unfortunately, a common occurrence in Rural Districts.

Infectious Diseases.—If we leave out Tuberculosis, which has only been notifiable for two years, the number notified has been the smallest on record, and very much smaller than the average for the last ten years, more especially when it is taken into consideration that one-half of the cases could be traced as having been imported into the district. Whether this satisfactory condition of affairs may be due to a temporary disposition of Providence, or is due to improvements in water supply, drainage, and general sanitary improvements, time alone will show, though as the improvement has been gradual and sustained during the last five years, it is, perhaps, natural to suppose that it may be a case of Providence helping a District Council that helps itself. Though a good deal has been done to deserve this satisfactory state of affairs, a good deal still remains to be done.

Isolation Hospital.—The extension of the Joint Hospital has now been completed, and will prove of great use to the district should the occasion arise, as the accommodation has been increased

from 20 beds to 44, and the number of diseases that can be concurrently treated from 3 to 4.

Rivers and Streams.—The pollution of these is slight, especially when their character is considered.

Water Supply.—Is good as far it goes. At Bootle, an extension of the previous supply has been made up to the main beck above Fellside, and extra mains have been laid from the road by the Workhouse down to Hyton. This scheme should be continued to Kiskin, where water is needed, and also to farms below Bootle Station.

It is to be regretted that the proposed supply for Lady Hall had to be shelved on account of the increased cost of the scheme suggested by the L.G.B. Inspector. A supply is urgently needed, and though the Inspector's scheme is better than the original one proposed by the Council, if is more expensive, and I think the original proposal would have answered the purpose for a great many years, and is certainly better than none.

At Santon Village, the proposal for the supply to be extended from the main of the Whitehaven R.D.C., when carried out, will improve the supply of this area.

As regards Eskdale, the position is the same as for some years. In my opinion, the provision of a supply is quite as important as regards Eskdale Green as for any other part of the district in the present, and may be more so in the future.

Drainage and Sewerage.—No new scheme of sewerage has been carried out, but a good deal of work has been done on the existing systems.

Closet Accommodation.—The Closet Accommodation is sufficient with very few exceptions, where action has been taken to improve it; and where the sewerage system permits, water closets are substituted. Where the scavenging system is in force, it is satisfactory. Improved sanitary conditions, which were urgently needed, have been provided at Seascale and Silecroft.

Schools.—Are visited from time to time. There has not been any occasion to close a school on account of Infectious Disease for the second year in succession. Improvements in the sanitary arrangements have been carried out in some schools, and are contemplated in others.

Food (a) Milk Supply.—Is ample and of good quality. It is all produced within the district. There are no milk shops. The Dairies are well kept.

(b) *Other Foods*.—No unsound food has been found. The sanitary condition of premises where Foods are prepared, stored, or exposed for sale, are satisfactory. The Slaughter-houses are regularly visited, and are satisfactory.

(c) *Sale of Food and Drugs Act*.—This is administered by the police.

Offensive Trades.—None.

Common Lodging-houses.—None.

Housing.—There is no overcrowding, and the character of most of the houses in the district is good ; some of the other houses are deficient in ventilation, spouting and repairs. From time to time a certain amount of work of this description has been carried out, and more will follow each year. The erection of new houses and the drainage thereof is carefully supervised by your Sanitary Inspector.

Table showing summary of work done under the Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations, 1910 :—

Number of Dwelling-houses inspected under Section 17.....	62
" " considered injurious to health	37
" " reported to Sanitary Authority for	
Closing Order	6
Number of Closing Orders made	2
Number of Houses repaired without Closing Orders	28
" which, after the making of a Closing Order,	
were put in a fit state for occupation....	nil
General defects found to exist :—	
(a) Water Supply	4
(b) Closet Accommodation	6
(c) Drainage	7
(d) Light, Ventilation, Dampness, Cleanliness	24
(e) Paving and Condition of Yards and Out-houses	17
(f) Disposal of Refuse and Ashes ..	3

Tuberculosis.—16 cases notified. The premises are visited and instructions given to occupiers. Should a death occur, the premises are disinfected. There is an Open-air Shelter at Bootle, and a Dispensary at Millom for the treatment of cases.

Workshops, etc.—41 are on the register, and have been inspected when necessary ; any improvements required have been made.

I append Tables of Statistics, and am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

W. A. JOHNSTON,

M.O.H. Bootle Rural District Council.

TABLE I.—Vital Statistics of Whole District during 1914 and previous Years.

YEAR.	Popula- tion estima- ted to Middle of each Year.	Births.			Total Deaths Registered in the District.		Transferable Deaths.		Nett Deaths belonging to the District.			
		Uneor- rected Number	Nett.		Number.	Rate.	of Non- residents regis- tered in the District.	of Resi- dents not register- ed in the District.	Under 1 Yr. of Age.		At all Ages.	
			Number.	Rate.					Number.	Rate per 1,000 Births.	Number.	Rate.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
1907	5469		90	17.4	79	15.3			7	77.7	79	15.3
1908	5469		118	23.	77	15.2			9	76.2	77	15.2
1909	5050		121	23.9	73	14.4			5	41.3	73	14.4
1910	5050		109	21.5	78	15.4			4	36.7	79	15.6
1911	5664		111	19.6	63	11.12		2	7	63.	65	11.4
1912	5664		103	18.18	58	10.25		5	2	19.4	63	11.3
1913	5664	120	119	21.	72	11.35		8	7	58.8	80	12.61
1914	5664		104	18.35	49	8.65		1	5	48.07	50	8.82

Area of District in acres (exclusive of area covered by water), 92,322.

Total Population at all ages, 5664 ; Number of inhabited houses, 1,147 ; Average number of persons per house, 4.93.

TABLE II.—Cases of Infectious Disease notified during the Year 1914.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE.	Number of Cases notified							Total Cases notified in each locality.											Total Cases removed to Hospital.						
	At all Ages.	At Ages—Years.						Boothe	Corney	Drigg	Esksdale	Irtou	Millom Rural	Muncaster	Seascale	Ulpha	Wasdale	Whiclaim		Whitbeck	Waber-thwaite				
		Under 1	1 and under 5 years.	5 and under 15 years.	15 & under 25 years.	25 & under 45 years.	Above 45 years.																		
Smallpox ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Cholera ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Plague ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Diphtheria (including Membranous Group)	2	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Erysipelas ..	1	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Scarlet Fever ..	5	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	..	..	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Typhus Fever ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Enteric Fever ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Relapsing Fever ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Continued Fever ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Puerperal Fever ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Cerebro-spinal Meningitis ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Polyomyelitis ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Pulmonary Tuberculosis ..	9	..	2	4	2	1	..	..	2	1	2	..	3	..	..	..	2	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Other ..	7	..	1	..	2	1	..	..	..	..	2	..	3	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Totals ..	24	..	10	4	6	2	1	3	..	5	..	9	1	1	1	..	2	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	6

Isolation Hospital—Milloom and Bootle Joint Hospital. Total available beds, 44.
 Number of Diseases that can be concurrently treated, 4

TABLE III.—Causes of, and Ages at Death during Year 1914.

CAUSES OF DEATH.		Nett Deaths at the subjoined Ages, whether occurring within or without the District.									Total Deaths whether of "Residents" or "Non-residents in Institutions in the District.
		ALL AGES.	Under 1 year.	1 and under 2 years.	2 and under 5 years.	5 and under 15 years.	15 and under 25 years.	25 and under 45 years.	45 and under 65 years.	65 years and upwards.	
1		2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
All Causes	{ Certified .. Uncertified ..	50 ..	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	65 ..
Enteric Fever .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Small Pox .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Measles .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Scarlet Fever .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Whooping Cough .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Diphtheria and Croup .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Influenza .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Erysipelas .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Phthisis (Pulmonary Tuberculosis) .. ..	..	4	..	..	..	..	1	2	1	..	2
Tuberculous Meningitis .. ..	..	1	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..
Other Tuberculous Diseases .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Cancer, malignant disease .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Rheumatic Fever .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Meningitis .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Organic Heart Disease .. ..	..	1	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..
Bronchitis .. ..	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	..
Pneumonia (all other forms) .. ..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..
Other Diseases of Respiratory Organs .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Diarrhœa and Enteritis .. ..	..	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Appendicitis and Typhlitis .. ..	..	1	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..
Cirrhosis of Liver .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Alcoholism .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Nephritis & Bright's Disease .. ..	..	5	..	..	..	1	..	1	..	3	..
Puerperal Fever .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Other Accidents and Diseases of Pregnancy & Parturition .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Congenital Debility and Malformation, including Premature Birth .. ..	..	3	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Violent Deaths, excluding Suicide .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Suicides .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Other Defined Diseases .. ..	..	18	1	..	1	..	..	3	2	11	..
Diseases ill-defined or unknown .. ..	..	13	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	13	3
		50	5	..	2	3	1	6	3	30	5

CAUSE OF DEATH.				Under 1 week.	1-2 weeks.	2-3 weeks.	3-4 weeks.	Total under 1 month.	4 weeks & under 3 month.	3 months and under 6 months	6 months and under 9 months	9 months and under 12 months	Total Deaths under 1 year.
All Causes	{	Certified ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
		Uncertified	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Small-pox .. ..				..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Chicken-pox .. ..				..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Measles .. ..				..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Scarlet Fever .. ..				..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Whooping Cough .. ..				..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Diphtheria and Croup .. ..				..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Erysipelas .. ..				..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
{ Tuberculous Meningitis .. ..				..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
{ Abdominal Tuberculosis .. ..				..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
{ Other Tuberculous Diseases .. ..				..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Meningitis (<i>not Tuberculous</i>) .. ..				..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Convulsions .. ..				..	..	..	1	1	..	1	..	..	2
Laryngitis .. ..				..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Bronchitis .. ..				..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Pneumonia (all forms) .. ..				..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
{ Diarrhœa .. ..				..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
{ Enteritis .. ..				..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Gastritis .. ..				..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Syphilis .. ..				..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Rickets .. ..				..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Suffocation, overlaying .. ..				..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Injury at Birth .. ..				..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Atalectasis .. ..				..	1	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	1
{ Congenital Malformations .. ..				..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
{ Premature Birth .. ..				..	2	..	..	2	..	..	..	..	2
{ Atrophy, Debility, and Marasmus .. ..				..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Other Causes .. ..				..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
				3	..	..	1	4	..	1	..	..	5

Nett Births in the year:—legitimate, 97.	Nett Deaths in the year of legitimate infants, 5.
—illegitimate, 7.	illegitimate infants, Nil.

MILLOM,

February, 1915.

*To the Chairman and Members of the Bootle Rural
District Council.*

GENTLEMEN,—

I have much pleasure in submitting for your consideration my Annual Report upon the sanitary condition of your District for the year 1914.

The Annual Report has to be forwarded to the Local Government Board and to the County Council of Cumberland, in order to give these Authorities some idea of the work carried out in the District during the year: you will, therefore, probably find mentioned in my Report matters upon which you are already conversant, and which would be superfluous if the report was addressed to you alone.

Steady progress has been made in the work of my department, and it was particularly gratifying to know that the County Medical Officer of Health commented most favourably upon the work being done in our District after he had made a detailed inspection of practically the whole of the District.

The lamentable war has seriously affected many proposed improvements: owners of property have naturally refrained from incurring any but absolutely necessary expenses. With the continued unrest and considerable advance in prices of labour and materials, I have not felt justified in pressing for some improvements, which, in ordinary circumstances, would be very desirable; however, I am pleased with the amount of work carried out during the year.

I have the honour to remain,

Yours obediently,

W. BRITTON-JONES,

Sanitary Inspector to the B.R.D.C.

Water Supply.—It is always a source of considerable satisfaction to be in a position to report that our District is, generally speaking, extremely well supplied with various schemes of good, pure water, all upon the “gravitation” principle, which proves that the Council fully realise their responsibility and duty to see their district is provided with a pure and ample supply of water.

There has been a considerable amount of work done under this heading during the year, and while perhaps all that we could have hoped for has not been carried out, many of the matters previously reported adversely upon have been brought nearer a successful conclusion.

Perhaps the most important works executed are the augmentation to the Bootle Supply: here an extension of main has been laid up to the main beck above Fellside Farm, together with the construction of a settling and screening tank at the intake. These works will provide for practically an unlimited supply, and has already proved of considerable benefit to the village during the past summer, and the anxiety of the previous summer has been removed altogether. The large tank at the old head works has been thoroughly cleaned out and overhauled.

The augmentation to the supply at this village has been followed by the laying down of extra mains nearly a mile in length, from the road by the Workhouse down to Hyton, thus permitting several farms and cottages to be supplied with water, of which they were in great need. An effort to arrange for the continuing of this main as far as Kiskin was not successful, but as several premises are in need of the water, I am hoping this will be accomplished before long.

I regret to say the farms below Bootle Station, which have previously been reported to you, are still without an adequate supply of water. I would refer you to my remarks of last year, wherein I stated: “I know of no part of our district which stands in more need of a water supply, and as a supply could be obtained fairly easily from the Bootle Mains, I hope the District Council will press this matter.”

A scheme for providing the various properties at Lady Hall was prepared and excellent arrangements were made with the various interested parties, but when the question was laid before the Local Government Board, who held an inquiry into the application, it was felt that the cost of the scheme would be far too heavy for this small Hamlet to bear when incorporating the recommendations of the Board. This question has, unfortunately, postponed a much-needed improvement.

The arrangement which the Council recently made to permit a supply of water being taken from the Whitehaven Rural District

Council's main, to supply certain property at Santon Village, should prove a great boon to this part of our District, which has long been the subject of adverse reports.

The concession granted by you to permit water to be supplied from an adjoining district was extremely generous and done in the best interests of this part of your district. There cannot be the slightest reason now for delaying the provision of water there.

The position of Eskdale and its water supply is just the same as last year; there were very few complaints of shortage of water during the year. Much of the property there is still vacant. The question of a public supply will probably have to stand over until a more favourable opportunity.

The high standard of the Drigg and Seascale water supply is still maintained, no trouble being experienced during the year. During the height of the Summer season a certain amount of discolouration was noticed at Seascale, and an experiment of more frequent flushing of the main is being tried, which, up to the present, is proving successful. A new copper screen has been added at the head works.

Rivers and Streams.—I have pleasure in again reporting that nothing of a serious nature affecting the pollution of the rivers and streams of your district has been observed during the year. As previously reported, the rivers and streams are of such a swift character that it would require very serious pollution to affect these to any appreciable extent.

I find a tendency to discharge drains straight into the streams without treatment of the sewage, when these are discovered attention is given to same and the nuisance abated; several such cases have been dealt with during the year.

Drainage and Sewerage.—There has been a good deal of work done under this heading during the year. Although no new scheme of sewerage has been carried out by the District Council, the various existing systems have received constant attention: these have all worked well during the year and given every satisfaction.

Continued negotiations have been made with the various owners to bring to a successful issue the proposed sewer from the public schools, at Seascale, down to join with the sewers of this village. With a view of meeting a certain amount of the objections raised, an amended scheme was prepared and submitted, to which the District Council offered to contribute 25 % of the cost, but, unfortunately, up to the present, it has not been found possible to get all the interested owners to agree. This sewer would prove such a great boon and open up such a large amount of desirable building land, that I am surprised any delay should have taken place in

closing with the various generous offers of help made. A considerable amount of time and labour has been expended upon the preparation of the various schemes, which, up to the present, has been of no avail.

Certain alterations have been made in the public sewer at Ravenglass with a view of preventing a nuisance, caused by one of the ventilating shafts and untrapped road grids near the Railway Station.

The question of providing a system of sewers for the village of The Hill, Millom, was brought to the front by the County M.O.H., after his visit to our District. A detailed report upon the matter was presented to you, and after very careful consideration it was felt that, in view of the heavy cost any practical scheme would entail, and the fact that there was a considerable amount of the property uninhabited, it would be impossible to undertake a scheme at present, but that the matter should be kept in view, and, in the meantime, the scavenging receive careful and constant attention.

During the year a Septic Tank and Filter has been built to deal with the sewage of Messrs. Vickers, Ltd., Range House at Monk Moors. This house is frequently occupied by a large number of people during gun trials, &c.; the old system was frequently the cause of complaints. I am convinced the septic tank will prove a much-needed improvement.

A large amount of private house drainage has been executed during the year, and I am pleased to say the same high standard of previous years has been well maintained: the tradesmen all endeavour to carry out my wishes in this respect.

Closet Accommodation.—Several water closets have been installed in places of the old objectionable privies, in some cases septic tanks have been built in conjunction therewith. Whenever the sewerage system permits, water closets are suggested; but I still find in some of the older parts of our district, and in certain isolated places, the objectionable pits in use, having large accumulations of filth, sometimes stored up with a view of future use in the garden. These are gradually being remedied. The conversion of these privies into good earth closets is such a small matter, as regards expense, that there does not seem to be any reason why it should not be generally adopted, and it should not be forgotten that the provision of a plentiful supply of dry earth or ashes should always be made in conjunction therewith. I am surprised to find it is very rare that such provision is made, the pail closet thus becomes almost as objectionable as the privy.

Scavenging.—I am pleased to be able to report that the question of scavenging is one which appears to be receiving much

more attention than formally. I am fully convinced it is a question closely allied with the health of our villagers. The speedy and frequent removal of all filth and refuse from the surroundings of the dwellings of the people far more than justifies the expense this service may entail. It is not only in towns that scavenging is necessary, but also in our villages, where the opinion is too often held that this is a "fad" or an "expensive luxury."

So important is the question of scavenging considered by the Local Government Board, that in a letter dated 10th July, 1914, when sending out suggestions upon the precautions to be made for the prevention of epidemic Diarrhœa, the following instructions appear: "Domestic attempts at cleanliness may be rendered inoperative by conditions outside the house, and it is most important that these conditions should receive attention from the Council. Unpaved streets and court-yards should, where necessary, be paved, *and in particular* all accumulations of refuse in the neighbourhood of dwellings should be promptly and efficiently removed. These accumulations provide breeding grounds for flies, and are otherwise open to serious objection. It is, therefore, essential to the health of a district that there should be arrangements for the frequent removal of house, stable and street refuse, and the contents of privies and other closets on the conservancy system, and for the disposal of refuse and excrement under sanitary conditions," etc., etc.

The question of providing a system of scavenging for the village of Ravenglass has been carefully gone into, and the scheme is now under consideration of the local Parish Council; it will be a great boon to this village if some scheme should be adopted.

Some difficulty has been experienced during the year in carrying out the contract for the removal of house refuse at Seascale. I am pleased to say a new contract has been entered into, wherein the duties are more clearly defined. The Council have also taken the wise course of providing their own cart for the refuse, a splendid cart built upon an up-to-date principal, with sliding iron covers, and I am convinced it will prove a great addition to the sanitary department of this parish.

The refuse is collected twice each week from each household in the parish, and is disposed of by tipping the refuse in an old peat hole situated in a field well away from the village.

No complaints have been received as to the work of removal of the contents of the privies, etc., at The Hill, which is carried out by contract. The work has been carried out satisfactorily by the Contractor.

Sanitary Inspection of District.—In the course of ordinary routine work, something like 140 premises have been visited

during the year (as usual, many of the premises need to be visited several times whilst remedial work is in progress), and 98 sanitary amendments were made, the following being a summary :

Number of Drains relaid or repaired.....	14
„ Premises provided with new water supply	6
„ New W.C.'s provided	6
„ Refuse receptacles provided	9
„ Houses cleansed, disinfected, or limewashed ...	25
„ Houses found with defective ventilation under floors	12
„ Sundry nuisances abated.....	26
	<hr/>
Total.....	98
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I have continued to give every assistance and advice to all enquirers upon sanitary matters, and have supervised all improvements, whether these have been done voluntarily or under compulsion, and I venture to suggest that the amount of work accomplished is the best indication of the progress of public opinion upon the advantages of sanitation.

During the year a public urinal has been erected in the shrubbery near the Railway Station at Seascale. The Railway Company has erected a Refreshment Pavilion upon the shore, in which sanitary accommodation for ladies is provided, also a large shelter for the users of the beach. These are improvements which should prove a great benefit to the visitors of Seascale, particularly those visiting for the day.

The Council have also provided sanitary accommodation for both sexes upon the Seashore at Silecroft. I am convinced this will be greatly appreciated by the many visitors to this rising and popular resort.

The bye-laws for regulating the foreshores at Seascale and Whicham were duly published at the commencement of the season, and naturally a certain amount of effort was necessary to get the users of these foreshores to fall into line ; however, a very good start was made, and I feel sure these bye-laws will be of great assistance as time goes on in preventing nuisances and regulating the foreshores.

Schools.—The various public schools throughout our District are regularly visited, and the high state of cleanliness of the out-offices is well maintained.

The improvements in contemplation at Buckman Brow Schools have not yet been carried out. I understand the delay is due to the uncertainty of the Schools being continued. The improvements were to consist of a new water supply, a series of water closets for

both boys and girls, new lavatory and urinals, together with the building of a septic tank for the disposal of the sewage. I am in hopes that all the difficulties in the way of proceeding with this work will soon be overcome.

The closing of the Infants' Schools at Ravenglass has saved the expense contemplated upon the alterations of the sanitary conveniences there. The buildings are not in use at present.

As previously reported to you, in practically every case the accommodation at the various schools in our district are now of the "water closet" or "dry earth closets," improvements having been carried out under my supervision.

In passing, I would like to mention that the County M.O.H. expressed himself as particularly pleased with the sanitary accommodation of the various schools he visited when in the district, the provision of urinals for girls at the schools where the "pail" systems are in use, was the subject of favourable comment by him.

Food : Milk Supply.—In connection with the Milk Supply there is very little to report upon. We have no milk shops in our district. The milk is usually carried direct from the farm to the consumer ; the supply is both abundant and wholesome.

The Cow-sheds are regularly inspected and are conducted satisfactorily. The remarks of my previous reports as to the construction of some of the Cow-sheds still holds good, but now the new Milk and Dairies Bill has become law ; although its operation has been suspended until the 26th October, 1915, there is no doubt its provisions will go far towards securing a purer and better milk supply. All farmers and purveyors of milk will do well to procure and study the provisions of this new Bill.

The Dairies of our district continue to be well conducted, and it is a great pleasure to visit these. I venture to say that in no part of the country are dairies kept in better condition, and I feel I cannot pay too high a tribute to the cleanliness of the women folk about our farms.

Other Foods.—The number of Slaughter-houses in our district at present are 5, and all these are regularly inspected. I am pleased to say these continue to be satisfactorily conducted.

It is, of course, very difficult to keep a close watch upon the whole of the meat in so wide a district as ours, yet I am pleased to say no necessity has arisen for seizure of unsound or unwholesome food during the year, and my visits are very frequent and at irregular times.

Food and Drugs Act.—In this district, the Food and Drugs Act is administered by the County Council, through the police.

Disinfection.—The number of infectious cases notified during the year were 24, 16 of which were of Tuberculosis.

This branch of our work entails a considerable amount of labour.

as it will be readily realised : unless the work is carried out very thoroughly, it is of no avail. The work of disinfecting in cases of tuberculosis has very materially increased in this department.

In all cases of infectious diseases, disinfectants are supplied, and when the patients have recovered, or have been removed to the Isolation Hospital (as the case might be), the premises are thoroughly disinfected and instructions given as to cleansing, etc.

The Council are well supplied with disinfecting apparatus, having the "Invieta" spraying (under pressure) machine, "Alformant Lamps," and "Sharratt's Formaldehyde Fumigators." There is also a Steam Disinfecter at the Joint Isolation Hospital.

Housing.—The remarks I made as to the unrest caused by the war has been most felt in carrying out my work under this heading. The natural feeling has been to postpone spending money upon any but absolute necessary repairs ; nevertheless, I am pleased to be able to report a certain amount of progress.

During the year, two of the houses constructed of wood, situated at Waberthwaite, have been condemned as unfit for human occupation. These have now been pulled down. It is with a certain amount of mixed feelings that I am compelled to ask for any property in this neighbourhood to be condemned, as cottage property is rather scarce, and work just at present is very good and plentiful ; however, it is pleasant to know that a certain amount of the want is being met by enterprising owners. Several new cottages have been built, as mentioned in my previous reports ; and, during the year, two additional cottages have been erected at Waberthwaite, one reconstructed and made habitable, and plan passed for converting suitable buildings into three cottages, together with improvements to two others : all these are quite close to Waberthwaite, and will mean a welcome addition to the housing of this part of our district.

Plans have also been approved for the re-construction of three cottages at Ravenglass, which had been duly reported as unfit for occupation under the Housing Act. I understand this work will be put in hand early in the coming Spring. Another cottage situated at Ravenglass, which was the subject of an adverse report by our M.O.H., in which he was strongly supported by the County M.O.H., has had the effect of compelling the owner to carry out extensive repairs to save the property from being condemned. This work is well in hand.

The Mill House, Bootle, has been reported to the Council as unfit for human occupation. The difficulty of the tenant procuring suitable accommodation, together with the desire to save the Mill itself, which is certainly a great benefit to the whole neighbourhood, has affected the Council coming to a decision to condemn the same. This matter will be dealt with in the near future.

A summary of the work done under the Housing Act, showing the various defects noticed, will be found as under :

Number of Inspections made.....	62
„ Informal Notices served	37
„ Formal Notices served	3

for all of which the work is in hand, or satisfactory arrangements for the same to be done at suitable times have been made.

New building has formed a somewhat important part of my work during the year : plans for 21 new buildings, and 15 alterations to existing buildings, having been before the Council and dealt with.

The series of forms now in use in connection with this work are so arranged that I am kept constantly informed of the progress of the building. I am pleased to say the standard of work in our district is now very good indeed.

As usual, in each case, the “ bottoms for the foundations,” “ the foundations,” “ the damp courses,” “ ventilation under the floors,” have all been inspected as the building proceeds, together with instructions as to the laying of the drainage & testing same when laid.

New work receives considerable attention, and I am pleased to say I find the various tradesmen and owners very willing to meet our regulations.

Number of Houses inspected under Section 17	62
Number of Houses found injurious to health	37
Number of Houses reported to Sanitary Authority for Closing Order	6
Number of Closing Orders made	2
Number of Houses repaired without Closing Order ..	28
Number of Houses, which, after the making of Closing Order, were put in fit state for occupation	nil.

General Defects found to exist :—

(a) Water Supply	4
(b) Closet Accommodation	6
(c) Drainage	7
(d) Ventilation. Light. Dampness, Cleanliness, etc.	24
(e) Paving and condition of Court-yard and Out-houses	17
(f) Disposal of Refuse	3

Factory and Workshops Act.—The conditions of the various work-places within our District remain very stationary. There has been a large extension to one of our workshops, and in four cases attention was called to the necessity of lime-washing, and the work was carried out immediately.

The number upon the register remains the same, i.e., 41.

Offensive Trades.—There are no offensive trades in the district.

Common Lodging-houses.—There are no common lodging-houses in the district.